GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:29
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
PUBLIC TELEPHONES IN VILLAGES
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether even public telephones are not available in more than 70,000 villages in the country as reported in the Navbharat Times dated 26 August, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has chalked out any plan to provide public telephones in all the villages of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the target fixed in this regard; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be provided?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 29 FOR 20TH OCTOBER, 2008 REGARDING "PUBLIC TELEPHONES IN VILLAGES".

(a) to (e) There are 5,93,601 inhabitated villages in the country as per Census 2001. Out of this, 5,30,624 villages have been provided with Village Public Telephones (VPTs) facility. It has been decided to provide the VPT facility in all uncovered villages also with subsidy support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). USOF has already authorized BSNL to provide VPTs in these uncovered villages in a period of two years.